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TO: Examiner: Samuel M. Heinrich
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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

for Application No. 10/791,576

Attorney Docket No. 133474

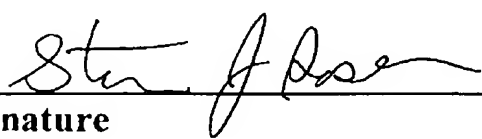
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S. R. Mannava et al.)
Serial No: 10/791,576) Group Art Unit: 1725
Filed: 03/02/2004) Examiner:
For: LOWER FLUENCE BOUNDARY) Samuel M. Heinrich
OBLIQUE LASER SHOCK PEENING)

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed July 17, 2006,
please consider the following amendments and remarks:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

1. The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over W095/25821 to Dulaney, in view of USPN 6,200,689 to Ferrigno et al., has been studied and the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for combining the references or applying them to the Claims in the present Application. The Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, teach Claim 1, in particular, "laser shock peening a border area of the surface between the first area and a non-laser shock peened area of the article with at least one first low fluence oblique laser beam that is oblique with respect to the surface."

Contrary to the Examiner's conclusion, Dulaney does not disclose the use of a laser beam that is oblique with respect to the surface. Dulaney does not disclose angled beams.